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| 10/698,152 | 10/31/2003 | Thomas K. Oram | 12406/60 | 1019 |
| 26646 | 7590 | 01/24/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| KENYON & KENYON LLP ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004 | | | KOYAMA, KUMIKO C | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Upon further consideration and consultation with a Primary Examiner, the Examiner further restricts claims 1-71 as provided below.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-18 and 69-71, drawn to the specifics of validating a ticket, classified in class 235, subclass 462.10.
 - II. Claims 19-30, drawn to the specifics of verifying the completion of a ticket, classified in class 235, subclass 462.13.
 - III. Claims 31-35, 46-50 and 56-66, drawn to generating a machine executable instruction, classified in class 235, subclass 462.15.
 - IV. Claims 36-45 and 51-55, drawn to encoding a bar code, classified in class 235, subclass 494.
 - V. Claims 67 and 68, drawn to reading a radio frequency identification tag, classified in class 235, subclass 492.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

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case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the system does not need to determine whether the selection slip was completed, specifically check the number of digits that need to be selected, in order to validate the ticket. The subcombination has separate utility such as voting systems.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Inventions I and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require a virtual machine to decode the instructions. The subcombination has separate utility such as UPC decoding at point-of-sale instead of game of chance.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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7. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

8. Inventions I and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the validating method as claimed in Group I does not require the specific instruction encoding method as claimed in Group IV. The bar code can be encoded with a universal product code, which is necessarily an instruction, and the instructional bar code as claimed does not necessarily require a virtual machine for processing. The subcombination has separate utility such as encoding instructions for changing the barcode reader settings, or encoding product descriptive codes, which are separate from validating a ticket for game of chance.

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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11. Inventions I and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Group I describes reading a bar code which is not necessary in the method claims of Group V, which describes the method for reading a radio frequency identification tag. The subcombination has separate utility such as reading radio frequency tracking tags for moving vehicles or animals to locate the position.

12. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

13. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

14. Inventions II and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require a virtual machine to decode the instructions.

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The subcombination has separate utility such as UPC decoding at point-of-sale instead of game of chance.

15. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

16. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

17. Inventions II and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the validating method as claimed in Group II does not require the specific instruction encoding method as claimed in Group IV. The bar code can be encoded with a universal product code, which is necessarily an instruction, and the instructional bar code as claimed does not necessarily require a virtual machine for processing. The subcombination has separate utility such as encoding instructions for changing the barcode reader settings, or encoding product descriptive codes, which are separate from validating a ticket for game of chance.

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18. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

19. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

20. Inventions II and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Group II describes reading a bar code which is not necessary in the method claims of Group V, which describes the method for reading a radio frequency identification tag. The subcombination has separate utility such as reading radio frequency tracking tags for moving vehicles or animals to locate the position.

21. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

22. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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23. Inventions III and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the validating method as claimed in Group III does not require the specific instruction encoding method as claimed in Group IV. The bar code can be encoded with a universal product code, which is necessarily an instruction, and the instructional bar code as claimed does not necessarily require a virtual machine for processing. The subcombination has separate utility such as encoding instructions for changing the barcode reader settings, or encoding product descriptive codes, which are separate from validating a ticket for game of chance.

24. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

25. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group III is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

26. Inventions III and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

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case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Group II describes reading a bar code which is not necessary in the method claims of Group V, which describes the method for reading a radio frequency identification tag. The subcombination has separate utility such as reading radio frequency tracking tags for moving vehicles or animals to locate the position.

27. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

28. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group III is not required for Group V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

29. Inventions IV and V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of Group IV has separate utility such as encoding codes for changing the setting of a barcode reader. Because Group IV describes encoding particularly a barcode and Group V relating a radio frequency identification tag, the method of reading a radio frequency identification tag of Group V is not required for reading the instruction encoded barcode. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

30. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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31. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group IV is not required for Group V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kumiko C. Koyama whose telephone number is 571-272-2394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kumiko C. Koyama
January 23, 2006


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